females and four males. The infants presented with fever, lethargy or irritability. The older children presented with fever and headache. Following full infection screens, all of the infants were treated with intravenous antibiotics. One patient had raised inflammatory markers and one patient had a significant cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) pleocytosis, the majority had a normal or minimally raised CSF white cell count. Eight patients had positive CSF Enterovirus PCR results and one patient had a Coxackievirus positive serum PCR (having not undergone lumbar puncture). In three patients a prolonged course of antibiotics was discontinued following the PCR result. One patient had episodes of tachycardia with subsequent diagnosis of supraventricular tachycardia requiring treatment.

Conclusion Positive enterovirus PCR results appear to have reduced antibiotic course length, limiting unnecessary antibiotic administration, and we advocate increasing use of this investigation.

**PO-0259** ANALYSIS OF THE VARIATION OF HEPATITIS B VIRUS GENOME IN CHILDREN FAILURE TO HBV VACCINE AND THEIR MOTHERS BY HIGH-THROUGHPUT SEQUENCING

H Xu, Department of Infectious Disease, Children’s Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing, China

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Objective To explore the characteristics of HBV mother-to-child transmission, and the population diversity of HBV in children failure to HB vaccine and their mothers.

Methods Eight children who developed into chronic HB infection after receiving hepatitis B vaccines and their respective mothers were enrolled into the research, the full length of HBV gene was amplified by PCR, the 250–500 bp fragments were extracted from gel and sequenced by solexa sequencing technology. The sequencing data were analysed by statistical methods. Liver function, HBV DNA level were determined for each patient.

Results (1) The sequences in paired mother and child could cluster well, the sequence homology between paired mother and child was beyond 99%. (2) The significant polymorphism positions existed in whole HBV gene among the children, and nt 200–300 and nt 700–800 in S, the Pre C, nt 1950–2100 in C and nt 2650–2850 in P genes were the hotter sites. (3) Significant polymorphism positions could be found in every immunised child. There were 10 significant polymorphism positions in “a” determinant region among 8 pairs. aa143 only existed in mother and aa124 only existed in child. The I126T and G145R determinant region among 8 pairs. aa143 only existed in child. There were 10 significant polymorphism positions in every immunised child.

Conclusions The HBV in children are delivered from their mothers, may be the most important reason for vaccine failure.
The population diversity of HBV present in children failure to HB vaccine and their mothers.

**PO-0260**  FREQUENCY OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE PATTERNS IN BACTERIA ISOLATED FROM CHILDREN

*R Yousufi-Mashhoud, R Esmaili, M Alikhani, M A Mohsaghi. Medical Microbiology, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran; 2Medical Microbiology, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran; 3Medical Microbiology, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran; 4Paediatrics, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran

Background and objective Bacterial infections in particular meningitis, pneumonia and sepsis are still some of the most causes of mortalities in children. The aim of present study was to identify the most common bacterial agents causing infections in children under 14 and detection of antibiotic resistance patterns.

Material and methods During two years, 1897 samples were obtained from the patients suspected bacterial infections. They were investigated for bacterial cultures, age, sex and antibiotic patterns. The species were identified by biochemical and serological methods.

Results Of 1897 samples, 563 (29.6%) had positive bacterial culture. Of these 74.7% were gram negative and 25.3% gram positive. The most common species were *Escherichia coli* (34.1%), *Staphylococcus aureus* (17.1%), *Psuedomonas aeroginosa* (12.4%), *Klebsiella* (11%) and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (5.7%). The most effective antibiotics against both gram positive and gram negative bacteria were ceftriaxone, nitrofurantoin, nalidixic acid, amikacin and gentamycin.

Conclusion The gram negative bacteria in particular *Escherichia coli*, *Psuedomonas aeroginosa* and *Klebsiella* are the predominant causes of bacterial infections in children under 14 in these regions. Most species showed a high relative resistance to routine antibiotics such as ampicillin, trimethoprim and chloramphenicol.

Infectious Diseases

**PO-0260a**  EFFICACY OF MOBILE PHONE USE ON ADHERENCE TO NEVIRAPINE PROPHYLAXIS AND RETENTION IN CARE AMONG THE HIV-EXPOSED INFANTS IN PMTCT: A RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL

L Kebaya, R Nduati, D Wamalwa, N Kariuki, A Bashir. Paediatrics, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

Background HIV is a major contributor to infant mortality. A significant gap remains between the uptake of infant and maternal antiretrovirals regimes and only a minority of HIV-exposed infants receives prophylaxis and safe infant feeding. Losses to follow-up of HIV-exposed infants are associated with shortcomings of facility-based PMTCT models with weak community support of linkages. Use of mobile phones offers an opportunity to improving care and promoting retention for the mother-baby pairs, which is a major challenge in efforts to achieving an HIV-free generation.

Objectives To compare self-reported adherence to infant nevirapine (NVP) prophylaxis and retention in care in HIV exposed infants randomised to 2-weekly mobile phone call versus control (no phone calls).

Design Randomised controlled trial.

Methods 150 mother infant pairs were drawn from postnatal wards of 3 health facilities in Kisumu, and randomly assigned to receive either phone-based reminders on PMTCT messages or standard health care messages (no calls). The group in the intervention arm received phone calls fortnightly. Data on infant adherence to nevirapine, retention in care, safe infant feeding and early HIV testing among HIV-exposed infants were collected by use of a questionnaire at the scheduled Maternal Child Health (MCH) visits (6 and 10 weeks). All analyses were intention to treat.

Results At 6 weeks follow-up, 90.7% (n = 68) of participants receiving phone calls reported adherence to infant NVP prophylaxis, compared with 72% (n = 54) of participants in the control group (p = 0.005). Participants in the intervention arm were also significantly more likely to remain in care than participants in the control group [78.7% (n = 59) vs. 58.7% (n = 44), p = 0.009 at 6 weeks and 69.3% (n = 52) vs. 37.3% (n = 28), p < 0.001 at 10 weeks].

Conclusions These results suggest that phone calls can be an important tool to improve adherence to infant NVP prophylaxis and retention in care for HIV-exposed infants.

**PO-0260b**  COMPARISON OF VESIKARI AND CLARK SEVERITY SCORES IN CHILDREN WITH ROTAVIRUS GASTROENTERITIS

Z Kurugol, A Aslan, H Çetin, G Kotroslu. Pediatrics, Ege University Faculty of Medicine, Izmir, Turkey

Two diarrhoea severity scales, the 20-point Vesikari scale and the 24-point Clark scale, are commonly used to assess the efficacy of rotavirus vaccines. However, the two scales have been compared previously in only a few studies by using the same patients.

The study was aimed to compare the Clark and Vesikari scales and to determine whether modified classifications would provide a better correlation between the two scales.

A total of 200 children with rotavirus gastroenteritis (RVGE) were evaluated. Of these, 57% were classified as severe by the Vesikari scale, while only 1.5% by the Clark scale (p < 0.001). When the Clark 3-category scale was transformed into 2-category scale by merging mild and moderate categories as non-severe, a good correlation with the Vesikari scale could not be found. Using the median of the severity scores as the severity threshold, could not provide a better correlation between the two scales. Thus, transforming the Vesikari 2-category scale into a 3-category scale by further subdividing the severe category into two parts as moderate and severe (≥16), thus using a score of 16 point as the severity threshold, provided a better correlation between the two severity scales, but still did not achieve a good level of agreement. Furthermore, still 89% of all those with Vesikari score ≥16 were classified as mild or moderate by the Clark scale.

The Clark and Vesikari severity scales differ significantly in the definition of severe RVGE. Even the reclassification attempts